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SRG) NCLC / NATIONAL
ACT
CAUCUS of Labor
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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM NEWS CENTER 4 STATION WNBC-TV
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BROADCAST EXCERPT

CHUCK SCARBOROUGH: Over the past few years its become common knowledge that such federal agencies as the CIA, the FBI, and the Internal Revenue Service have been spying on many people, often illegally, and with these revelations came promises that such surveillance would stop and that Congress would keep tabs on the situation. Carl Stern reports from Washington that at least in one case neither has happened.

CARL STERN: Fifteen months ago Attorney General Edward Levy issued guidelines limiting FBI surveillance and infiltration to groups breaking federal law and using force or violence, or about to do so. Since then the number of domestic security investigations has dropped to two hundred fourteen. But an investigation by NBC News shows the government may still be doing far more than the facts warrant to monitor political fringe groups and that Congress is not keeping watch, though it promised to do so.

This building houses the Washington office of the National Caucus of Labor Committees, a left-wing organization with about one thousand members. A recent report by Attorney General Griffin Bell described the group as a violence-oriented Marxist revolutionary organization involved in beatings, kidnappings and other forms of intimidation. The group claims that information is just plain wrong.

MAN: I simply told the FBI that they are absolutely wrong in that, that they know they are wrong in that. They know that this organization -- they know what this organization has been doing.

STERN: We asked the Justice Department whether it had prosecuted any NCLC member; the answer was 'no.' It then explained the surveillance by naming eight cities in which violence involving the group supposedly occurred, but a check of those cities showed only four arrests -- all of them four years ago. The file shows some persons

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were physically attacked by NCLC, but when questioned by NBC News many said that was incorrect. The Police Department said they regarded the group as a nuisance but not criminal. Those who have studied NCLC regard it at least as very abrasive.

MAN: The NCLC has been attacking, I don't know -- violently isn't the most accurate word to describe it, but certainly they've been assaulting, disrupting, using bull horns to shout at people on picket lines; they've been involved in actually breaking into a meeting room and demanding the microphone.

STERN: But Carr(?) also says the group has greatly reduced its disruptive tactics in recent years. He does not endorse government surveillance or infiltration of the group.

The one outfit that's supposed to guide such judgements is the Senate Intelligence Committee. It agreed to review FBI surveillances, yet it says it hasn't checked any in the year that the guidelines have been in effect. And the Justice Department, viewing the new facts, now says the surveillance is warranted because members of NCLC are emotionally unstable and pose a potential for violence. Well, that seems to be less than the guidelines require; much of the file information seems stale or inaccurate; Congress is not watching and surveillances seem to go on as they did before.

Carl Stern, NBC News, Washington.